

Application No. 09/807,403
Amendment dated July 7, 2006
Reply to Office Action of February 7, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): Apparatus for applying negative pressure therapy to a wound site, which comprises an open celled foam pad for application to the wound, a suction tube connecting the foam pad to a collection canister, said canister having a shut-off valve which closes the outlet from the canister when it is full, a tube connecting the canister to a wall suction point or to a vacuum bottle, and a pressure detector connected to the suction tube between the foam pad and the canister for indicating when the pressure in the suction tube crosses a predetermined level.

Claim 2 (previously presented): Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 which includes a flow limiting valve disposed between the canister and the suction source.

Claim 3 (previously presented): Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 which includes a pressure relief valve which is connected to the suction tube between the foam pad and the canister.

Claim 4 (previously presented): Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a first transducer for measuring pressure in the tube linking the canister to the wall suction point or to a vacuum bottle, and wherein the pressure detector connected to the suction tube between the foam pad and the canister comprises a second transducer.

Claim 5 (previously presented): Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 which includes a flow rate meter for measuring the rate at which fluid is sucked from the wound site.

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Claim 6 (previously presented): Apparatus as claimed in claim 5 in which the flow rate meter measures the rate at which the canister is filled.

Claim 7 (previously presented): Apparatus as claimed in claim 6 in which the flow rate meter is an electrical capacitance measuring device.

Claim 8 (previously presented): Apparatus for applying negative pressure therapy to a wound site, which comprises an open-celled foam pad for application to the wound, a suction tube connecting the foam pad to a collection canister, a tube connecting the canister to a wall suction point or a vacuum bottle and a sensor operable to detect when the canister is full.

Claim 9 (previously presented): Apparatus according to claim 8 which includes means for giving a warning that the canister is full and/or shutting off the connection between the canister and the wall suction point.

Claim 10 (previously presented): Apparatus according to claim 8 which further includes means for monitoring pressure at the wound site.

Claim 11 (previously presented): Apparatus according to claim 8 which further includes means for regulating pressure between the canister and the suction source.

Claim 12 (previously presented): Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 in which the pressure detector comprises a transducer connected by a branch tube to the suction tube leading from the foam pad to the canister.

Claim 13 (previously presented): Apparatus as claimed in claim 3, further comprising a processor operationally coupled to the relief valve and programmed to provide intermittent negative pressure therapy to the wound site.

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Claim 14 (previously presented): Apparatus for applying negative pressure therapy to a wound site, the apparatus comprising:

an open-celled foam pad for application to the wound;
a suction tube connecting the foam pad to a collection canister;
a tube for connecting the canister to a wall suction point or a vacuum bottle;
a pressure regulator connected the tube for connecting the canister to said wall suction point or vacuum bottle; and
a processor in electronic communication with the pressure regulator to regulate the pressure from said wall suction point or vacuum bottle.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the pressure regulator includes a relief valve, and wherein the processor is configured to actuate the relief valve to relieve pressure at the wound site when pressure at the wound site reaches a set maximum pressure.